[English]

Nutrition Level

2346. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether nutrition levels in the country are falling; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check malnutrition particularly among school going children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir. The nutritional levels in the country have actually improved. Classical nutritional deficiencies like beri-beri, pellagra, scurvy etc. have been eliminated. Severe and moderate malnutrition among children has significantly declined. Nutritional status of rural adults as per the Nutrition Trends in India, ICMR, 1993 has improved during the period 1975-90.

(b) Government has been implementing a number of nutrition and nutrition related interventions such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Nutrition Education Activities, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, Vitamin 'A' Prophylaxis Programme and School Health Programme, Mid-day Meals Programme through different sectors with a view to check malnutrition.

AIDS

2347. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently constituted a high power committee for strengthening the surveillance system on AIDS;

(b) if so, the details including composition and terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether the estimated number of HIV positive cases in the country as surveyed by World Health Organisation is different there the estimate of the Government;

(d) if so, the time by which the exact number of AIDS positive victims is likely to be known by the Government; and

(e) the efforts made with the help of World Health Organisation to eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Expert Group on HIV Estimates and improvement of Surveillance has been constituted.

(b) The details including composition of terms of references is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d). World Health Organisation has made statistical estimates based on extrapolation. It is difficult to give the precise number of infected persons in India. The Expert Group on HIV estimates will examine the methodology and the procedure of estimation of HIV positive individuals in India. The number of HIV positive and AIDS cases reported to NACO as on 31.10.96 is as follows :

No. of persons screened	2905910
No. of persons sero-positive	48033
No. of AIDS cases	2996

(e) World Health Organisation is providing 1.5 million Dollars in the form of Technical Assistance to prevent the spread of this disease.

STATEMENT

T. 17020/1/96-NACO
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
National AIDS Control Organisation

I.R.C.S. Building,
1, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-1.
August, 8, 1996

ORDER

The President is pleased to constitute an "Expert Group on HIV Estimates". The constitution of the proposed Expert Group would be as under :

1. Dr. S.P. Tripathi, Chairman
Director,
Family Health & Research,
SEARO/WHO, New Delhi.

2. Prof. L.N. Nath (Ex-Director, AIIMS) Member
Director,
Association for Health
Environment & Development
E-21, Defence Colony, New Delhi.

3. Dr. Padam Singh Member
Director,
Instt. for Research & Medical
Statistics,
ICMR Hqrs. Complex,
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi.

4.	Dr. T. Jacob John Prof. Emeritus, Deptt. of Virology, CMC, Vellore.	Member
5.	Dr. S.R. Salunka, Director, Health Services, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai	Member
6.	Dr. Pradeep Seth Prof. & HOD Deptt. of Microbiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.	Member
7.	Dr. S.K. Satpathy, Addl. Project Director (Tech.) National AIDS Control Orgn., New Delhi	Member- Secretary

The broad terms of reference for this Expert Group will be :

1. To review and approve the "document on HIV Estimates in the country" from time to time.
2. To recommend the guidelines for strengthening of Surveillance System on HIV/AIDS.
3. To advice on other related issues on surveillance system to make data more reliable and complete.

The expenditure on TA/DA of non-official member for attending the meeting will be regulated in accordance with the instructions issued by the Govt. of India from time to time and out of the budget of the National AIDS Control Programme. The official members will, however, draw their TA/DA for attending the meeting from the same source from which they draw their salary.

The "Expert Group" will meet atleast once in 6 months.

Sd/-
(S.K. Nag)
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

Copy to :

1. All Members of the Expert Group.
2. Pay & Accounts Officers, Min. of Health & FW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Director General of Health Services, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.
5. PS to MOS.
6. PPS to Secretary (Health/Family Welfare).
7. All Officers and Sections of the Ministry of Health & FW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
8. Administration I Section, Dte. GHS, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
9. Hindi Section (For Hindi conversion)
10. 25 spare copies.

Sd/-
(S.K. Nag)
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

National Cultural Policy

2348. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the National Cultural Policy drafted so far by the Government;

(b) how far it will be beneficial to the people; and

(c) when the same will be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) National Policy on Culture, as drafted, is under consideration of the Government.

Development of National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan

2349. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that very meagre progress has been made for development of National Highways in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Presumely the Hon'ble Member has in mind the expansion of National Highway network during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Due to paucity of funds, a length of only 609 Kms has been added so far to National Highway network.

Non-Payment of Salaries to the Staff of BRD Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Billore

2350. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the teaching staff of Baba Raghunandan Das Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Billore, Kanpur had not received the salaries since last five months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?